

# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

September 2021



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## “God’s Love in Action”

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
200 South Main Street  
Charles City, IA 50616-2751  
Phone: 641-228-3397

Website: [www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org)



Find & like us on Facebook!

Subscribe to the E-Skinny by  
emailing Kathy at  
[khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com)

Worship service broadcasted on  
KCHA FM 95.9 at  
9:00 a.m. on Sunday

St. John Christian Preschool  
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke  
[wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com)



Pastor Russ Leeper:  
[rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com)

Rev. Anita Nuetzman  
Part time Visitation/Preaching Pastor

Office Secretary: Kathy Hoeft  
[khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com)  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Business Manager: Linda Hughes  
[lhughes@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:lhughes@stjohncharlescity.com)

Music Director:  
Melanie Johanningmeier  
[mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com)

Youth & Family Coordinator:  
Laurie Heidebrink  
[lheidebrink@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:lheidebrink@stjohncharlescity.com)

Custodian: Jamie Carolan  
[jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com)

## Pastor Anita Nuetzman:

Dear People of God at St. John,

*Did I tell you yet that I'm a grandmother?!* I hope you'll forgive me if I've already mentioned it. I guess I *am* kind of excited.



You see, my husband and I have been “empty-nesters” now for *7 years*. That's a long time with no kids in the house for a former stay-at-home mom like me, whose life pretty much revolved around taking care of them and attending all their activities.

As chaotic as they were sometimes, I sure do miss those days. In fact, I was feeling so sad one day that I decided to make something for supper that we hadn't eaten since the kids were home: hot dogs wrapped in crescent roll dough, sometimes called pigs-in-a-blanket.

Off to the store I went to get the kid-approved brand of wieners and refrigerated rolls. Back at home, I opened the tube with a loud POP... but there were no happy shrieks of surprise. It was quiet.

So, I set about wrapping each of the wieners in a triangle of dough, by myself, starting at the wide end, just like I had showed the kids. But no one was there to help me. 😞 When the crusts were golden (*but not burned!*), I served them up for my husband and me, along with some macaroni and cheese (*from the box*). But as we sat there, I realized something still wasn't right. Tears welled up in my eyes because what I'd known all along became obvious: *it wasn't really about the food.*



You may have noticed this summer that in John's gospel, Jesus talks (*a lot*) about bread. I counted at *least 20* times that it's mentioned in chapter 6 *alone*. And nobody who was listening seemed to understand what he was trying to say. (Heck, *I'm still struggling!*) But I think it's safe to say that it *wasn't really about the food.*

As we are emerging now from some of the restrictions that the pandemic placed on our everyday lives, (unless the delta variant throws a wrench into our plans) many of us who longed for a sense of normalcy are eager now to return to all the things we did before, to bring back all those good feelings we've been missing. But friends, *it isn't really about the things.*

Recall our communion liturgy, if you will, where you always hear Pastor Russ and I say, “... do this for the remembrance of me.” As Lutherans, we believe Jesus Christ is *really and truly present* in, with, and under the bread and wine (you may have improvised with what you had on hand) when we receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. But *it wasn't really about the things*, was it?

In each of these cases, what we crave in our hearts isn't *something*, but *someone*. At least I think that's what St. Augustine was talking about when he wrote, “*You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.*”

My prayer is that, in the midst of our restlessness, our anxiousness, to return to life-as-usual, we discover the peace and joy that we're all longing for doesn't really come from the *things* we might think it does. Rather, it's found in a *person* --- Christ himself, who through his life, death and Resurrection, is ready and available, anytime or anywhere, *for us*.

That's a promise we can depend on, no matter how unfamiliar or uncertain the coming days or weeks or months might be.

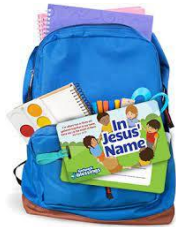
Yours in faith, **Pastor Anita**

**HAPPENING SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>!**

# Rally Sunday!

## Rally Day September 12<sup>th</sup>!

Join the Family Board in the Narthex for treats (including Cinnamon Rolls) & coffee/juice & sign up your students for Sunday School & After School!



## Blessing of the Backpacks September 12<sup>th</sup>!

All students, teachers and support staff are encouraged to participate by bringing your backpacks to be blessed!

## God's Work. Our Hands: Coming Sunday, September 12



On Sunday, September 12, members of St. John of all ages are invited to participate in God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. This event is held every year at ELCA congregations across the country. We'll have teams of St. John members head out into the community to serve in different ways (Team Blessing Box Planting, Team Sustain the Blessing Box, Team Cookie Decorating, Team Cookie Delivery, Team Mulch, Team Quilters, Team Shadow Ave Cleanup, Team cardmaking, Team Paint the Park, Team Helping Hands, Team Lions Field Park, Team Clothing Room). There are sign-ups in the narthex so you can choose your opportunity to serve! More information to come, so watch the E-Skinny, bulletin, Facebook page, and announcements at church!

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### TRINITY CHOIR

Trinity Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 29 at 7:00 pm. We will meet in the Sanctuary. Trinity Choir is open to anyone 7<sup>th</sup> grade and older. Youth may use singing in choir as Silver Cord hours. Please come join us for our first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 29 at 7:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Johanninger at 641-330-0963.



### CAROL CHOIR

Carol choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 29 from 5:45-6:10 pm. They will meet in the Choir Room in the basement. It is open to any child in grades 1-6. She is very excited to work with your children. Please come join Carol Choir for their first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 29 at 5:45. If you have any questions, please contact Lydia Johnson at 319-240-1522.

**OF NOTE...**

**WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN!**

Worship service will remain at 9:00 a.m. for the foreseeable future. Sunday School will be at 10:00 a.m. Council is excited about having a fuller sanctuary on Sundays and allowing the whole congregation to be able to enjoy choirs, children's presentations, and special music together. Plus, having one service will continue to foster the sense of community they've been trying to strengthen.

**Communion will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Parishioners will have the choice to receive communion up front or use the pre-packaged cups in the pews.**

**A worship video will be provided each Sunday on the St. John website & YouTube.  
The radio broadcast will continue EVERY Sunday at 9:00 a.m.**

**Our Generosity in July**

Your offerings to St. John were shared beyond our walls in July in the following ways:

8% of our regular July offering (\$1680.85) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In July (\$625.54) was set aside to fund the September 12 "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday.



**"The Iowa Café"**

The Department of Aging in partnership with Elderbridge Area Agency on Aging has a new program called **Iowa Café**. This project will transform traditional congregate meal sites to attractive restaurant partnership sites for older adults (60+ and spouse) to gather and enjoy nutritious meals. Meals will be free (individuals will be given the opportunity to contribute to the cost of the meal, however). Local restaurants participating in the program are The Blue Heron Bar & Grill in Mason City, IA and the 10<sup>th</sup> Hole in Riceville, Iowa.

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**FYI on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. John Lutheran Church**

As many of you know, next year is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. John. This is not the anniversary of the church building; it is the anniversary of the congregation. The current church building will be 98 years old next year, it was dedicated in 1924.



**1872**

The anniversary we are celebrating is based on a group of people of German origin that settled in the area. They began meeting in 1871 with a Rev. Adeeser of the Swedish Reformed Church, based in Plainfield. They had no actual church, but met in schools, store fronts and people's homes. In February of 1872, they extended a call to a Lutheran pastor, Rev. Wilke. In June of that year a resolution was passed to build a church and on September 1, 1872, they laid the cornerstone of what would be the first of the eventual three churches that have stood on the corner that St. John now occupies. The church had its first services in the spring of 1873.

We have plans to observe our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a celebration throughout 2022. There is a committee currently planning some events, displays of history and probably some singing groups and a dinner (with German emphasis) that will happen on various Sundays. We would like more input so if you would like to join, the next meeting is September 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Questions or suggestions can be sent to [petefishj@mchsi.com](mailto:petefishj@mchsi.com).

Janet Petefish, Anniversary committee

## People's Page...

### **September birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!**

9/6 Bob Tommingo  
9/8 Norma McLean  
9/10 Bill Berns  
9/11 Peg Poppen  
9/11 Dave Ripley  
9/12 Vera Hinz  
9/13 Jim Reysack  
9/17 Larry Brewer  
9/18 Larry Coen  
9/21 Lyneen Brunsting  
9/21 Jerry Spurbeck  
9/22 Harold Begemann  
9/28 Donna Stewart



### **September anniversaries of our members who have been married 50 or more years!**

September 4, 1965 Bill & Sharon Bledsoe  
September 8, 1956 Jim & Jacquie Moon  
September 8, 1968 Gary & Sandra Marth  
September 19, 1959 David & Helen Hagen  
September 22, 1964 James & Beverly Jensen

### **After Worship Social Time**

**has been an enjoyable way to reconnect with each other!** Coffee & a treat are served outside the Narthex doors each Sunday! If you would like to volunteer to bring the treats, please sign up on the chart just inside the doors on the table or call Kathy in the office. What you choose to bring for a treat is entirely up to you! Coffee & napkins are provided by St. John.

### **With Sympathy...**

#### **The death of**

Lynn Leroy Poppen, 8/23/21

#### **The funeral of**

Alvin Duane Fisher, 8/19/21

### **Memorials were given in memory of...**

Lynn Leroy Poppen: Arlene Thomas, Robert Peterson, Linda Hughes, Bill & Sharon Bledsoe, Dave & Shirley Ripley, Leon & Jan Mulford, Connie Swant, Kay Tjaden, Sharon Streich  
Alvin Fisher: Leon & Jan Mulford, Chris Ressler

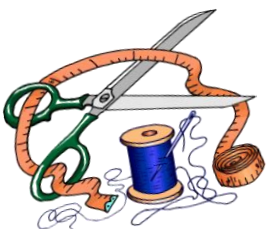


**Begins September 29<sup>th</sup>!**

#### **Menu:**

Maid Rites  
Potato Salad/Chips  
Baked Beans  
Applesauce  
"Pokie" Cake

**Altar Flower & Radio Sign-up:** If you would like to sign up to sponsor the Altar flowers &/or the radio broadcast contact Kathy in the office at 641-228-3397!



### **Coats for Kids will be coming October 9<sup>th</sup>**

As you ready your children for the coming cold winter, please consider donating new or gently used coats, snow pants, boots, mittens, or hats. There are many children in Charles City who will love getting a "new" coat for winter!

### **Do Day Quilters**

St. John has a group called "Do Day Quilters". They make tied quilts to donate to the local homeless shelters. They will begin meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (bring a sack lunch). All are welcome to come! You don't need to be an experienced quilter to help out! If you are interested in joining the quilters, call Kathy in the office at 641-228-3397 for more information!

## Youth & Families...

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for good and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”* Jeremiah 29:11

Blessings,  
Laurie Heidebrink

### PARISH ED NEWS

RALLY SUNDAY will be **September 12, 2021**

There will be treats provided by the Family Board, and registration forms for Sunday School and After School Program in the Narthex following 9:00am worship.

We will be celebrating the Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone during the service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS on **September 19, 2021.**

**Class from 10:05am – 11am**

**Installation of Teachers during worship**

### CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION will be **September 22, 2021**, at 6pm

Registration fee is \$10. This helps cover the cost of curricula and supplies.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES begin on **September 29, 2021**

CONFIRMATION FAIR will be **October 6, 2021**

We are inviting the congregation to come and visit with our 10<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands about their “Faith Boards” in the Parish Hall at 6pm

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY will be **October 10, 2021**



### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM begins on **October 6, 2021**

This is a fun program from 3:45pm-5pm on Wednesdays for 4year olds (that are attending preschool) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Older students are welcome as helpers.

Registration forms will be available on Rally Sunday in the Narthex.

The St. John bus will again be available to pick students up from school to bring them here.

The cost is \$10 per student.

**1st Day of Sunday School  
September 19th!**



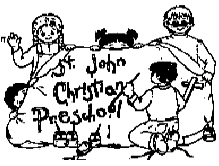
**Wednesday Night Supper begins  
September 29<sup>th</sup>!**

**Confirmation Orientation  
September 22<sup>nd</sup>!**

**After School begins  
October 6<sup>th</sup>!**

**Carol Choir/Trinity Choir begins  
September 29th!**

**1st Day of Confirmation  
September 29th!**



## St. John Christian Preschool...

It's back to school time at St. John Christian Preschool and we began our first day on Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to have many new and returning little ones with us this year. The year started with a little apprehension and even some tears, but as time went on, we quickly moved on to many more smiles and giggles! ☺ We will be starting off the school year with a Space theme.

Although August 30<sup>th</sup> was the first day of school for our little ones, we already held two successful parent meetings back on August 16<sup>th</sup>. We offered these meetings for each class to give parents an opportunity to network with one another, to get to know the preschool staff and to learn about the preschool's policies.

We also welcomed all of our families to St. John Christian Preschool at our Get Acquainted Open Houses on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. It was exciting to have all of our little ones stop by the preschool with their families and friends to drop off school supplies and to get his/her school picture taken.

Preschool is a big step for our 3, 4, and 5 year olds, but it is also a big step for parents. As a preschool staff, we consider our job one of utmost importance. Not only are we helping our little ones expand their academic, social, and developmental skills that will guide their paths in life, but also for some of them, we are teaching them about God's love for the very first time. We ask you for your prayers to help us along the way and we thank you for your continuing support of our ministry!!

In closing, we currently have spots available in our 3-yr-old morning program and in our afternoon 4/5 year old program. If you know of someone still in need of a preschool for his or her little one, please give us a call at 228-7274 and we will try to help out!

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD!  
Whittney Franke



## September 2021 Schedule...

9:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

Communion is the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

10:05 a.m. Sunday Education Hour (starting 9/19)

September 22<sup>nd</sup>: Newsletter Deadline

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday: Do Day Quilters, 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

### **BOARD MEETINGS:**

Building & Grounds:	9/7	5:00 p.m.	
Council:	9/14	6:00 p.m.	
Communication:	9/20	6:00 p.m.	(Zoom)
Deacons:	9/12	10:30 a.m.	
Family Board	9/15	5:00 p.m.	
Finance Board	9/9	5:30 p.m.	
Parish Ed	9/1	5:30 p.m.	
Stewardship	9/21	2:30 p.m.	(Quade's)
Youth	9/8	5:00 p.m.	

## Events of Note

Office closed Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>  
**September 12<sup>th</sup>:** Rally Day, Blessing of the Backpacks, God's Work Our Hands projects.

**September 19<sup>th</sup>:** Installation of Education staff

**Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>:** Pastor Anita, sermon

## Wednesday Night Activities...

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Confirmation Orientation  
**September 29<sup>th</sup>:**

5:00 p.m. Supper

5:45 p.m. Carol Choir

6:00 p.m. Confirmation

7:00 p.m. Trinity Choir

**October 6<sup>th</sup>:** 3:45 p.m. After School



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Sondra Coen Aaron Garden	Samantha Heyer	Hallie Kubik	Kari Klemesrud Yolanda Van Ausdall
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Rory Streich	Mackenzey Bilharz Seth Nordmeyer Bob Tommingo Emersyn Ungs	Gloria Carr Lauren Connell Kylie Parson	Ravyn Knecht Norma McLean Linda Reit	Lynn Brown Dax Johnson Stanley Mehmen	Bill Berns	Marcia Grimm Peg Poppen David Ripley
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Kendra Buenger Vera Hinz Brandon Holthaus Brad McKenzie	Jim Reysack	Ethan Voelker		Brenda Stone Matt Wolf	Dennis Brahn Larry Brewer Jenisha Garden Leland Lumley	Larry Coen JoAnn Hervert Becky Meyer
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Frank Anderson Alex Litterer Malayne Meyer Jadyn Van Horn		Lynne Brunsting Tom Heddens	Harold Begemann	Bob Brede Cindy Davidson	Justin Heyer Kent Hoeft Kurt Hoeft	
26	27	28	29	30		
Jack Murray Jean Rima	Sarah George	Kristin George Carleen Laue Jolene Patterson Donna Stewart	Isaac Gassman			